

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A plug retaining assembly comprising:

a plug;

a socket to interface with the plug; and

a retaining clip, wherein the plug includes a lug and the retaining clip includes a lug engaging mechanism ~~adapted to disengage~~ structured to allow disengagement of the plug from the socket at a predetermined release force applied to the plug.

2. (Original) The plug retaining assembly of claim 1, wherein the plug is configured to disconnect from the socket at a predetermined release force and wherein the plug retaining assembly is reconfigurable so that after the plug has disconnected due to being subjected to at least the release force, the plug may be reconnected to the socket and remain connected to the socket ~~until again subjected to the release force.~~

3. (Original) The plug retaining assembly of claim 1, wherein, in use, the plug is disconnectable from the socket by application of a withdrawal force that is substantially less than the release force required to disconnect the plug from the socket when the retaining clip is used.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of setting a release force of a plug retaining assembly, the method comprising:

providing the plug retaining assembly with a plug, a socket to interface with the plug, and a retaining clip, wherein the plug includes a lug and the retaining clip includes a lug engaging mechanism having a wedge angle adapted to ~~disengage~~ allow disengagement of the plug from the socket at a predetermined release force; and

selecting the wedge angle in accordance with the predetermined release force.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising configuring the plug retaining assembly to allow the plug to disconnect from the socket at a predetermined release force and to include the ability to reconfigure the plug retaining assembly so that after the plug has disconnected due to being subjected to at least the release force, the plug may be reconnected to the socket and remain connected to the socket until again subjected to the release force.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising configuring the plug retaining assembly to include the ability for a user to disconnect the plug from the socket by application of a withdrawal force that is substantially less than the release force required to disconnect the plug from the socket when the retaining clip is used.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of setting a release force of a plug retaining assembly, the method comprising:

providing the retaining assembly with a plug, a socket to interface with the plug, and a retaining clip, wherein the plug includes a lug and the retaining clip includes a lug engaging mechanism having a wedge angle adapted to ~~disengage~~ allow disengagement of the plug from the socket at a predetermined release force; and

selecting the resilience of the retaining clip in accordance with the predetermined release force.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising configuring the plug retaining assembly to allow the plug to disconnect from the socket at a predetermined release force and to include the ability to reconfigure the plug retaining assembly so that after the plug has disconnected due to being subjected to at least the release force, the plug may be reconnected to the socket and retain connected to the socket until again subjected to the release force.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising configuring the plug retaining assembly to include the ability for a user to disconnect the plug from the socket by application of a withdrawal force that is substantially less than the release force required to disconnect the plug from the socket when the retaining clip is used.

10. (New) The plug retaining assembly of claim 1, wherein the retaining clip is pivotally mounted to the socket.

11. (New) The plug retaining assembly of claim 10, wherein the retaining clip includes a pair of pins that insertable within respective bores provided in lugs of the socket to enable pivotal movement of the retaining clip about the pins.

12. (New) The plug retaining assembly of claim 11, wherein at least one the bores includes a notch and at least one of the pins includes a protrusion, the protrusion adapted to engage within the notch when the retaining clip reaches a plug retaining position.

13. (New) The plug retaining assembly of claim 1, wherein the plug includes at least one pin receiving slot that is adapted to receive respective pins provided on the socket.

14. (New) The plug retaining assembly of claim 1, wherein the plug includes a pair of lugs.

15. (New) The plug retaining assembly of claim 14, wherein the retaining clip includes a pair of tabs positioned at respective ends of a pair of arms, the tabs adapted to engage with respective lugs of the plug to maintain the retaining clip in a plug retaining position.

16. (New) The plug retaining assembly of claim 15, wherein the resilience of the arms is at least partially determinative of the predetermined release force.

17. (New) The plug retaining assembly of claim 15, wherein the friction between the lugs and the tabs is at least partially determinative of the predetermined release force.

18. (New) The plug retaining assembly of claim 1, wherein the retaining clip includes a sloping surface that engages the lug, the sloping surface having an angle that is at least partially determinative of the predetermined release force.

19. (New) The plug retaining assembly of claim 1, wherein the retaining clip includes a groove adapted to receive an upper portion of the plug when the retaining clip is in a plug retaining position.

20. (New) The plug retaining assembly of claim 1, wherein the predetermined release force is between about 100-300 N.

21. (New) The plug retaining assembly of claim 1, further comprising a second plug, a second socket, and a second retaining clip, wherein the retaining clip and second retaining clip are rotatable in opposite directions.

22. (New) The method of claim 4, wherein the predetermined release force is between about 100-300 N.

23. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein selecting the resilience of the retaining clip includes selecting the resilience of arms of the retaining clip.

24. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the predetermined release force is between about 100-300 N.